

12-29-1867

Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, Rome, Italy, 1867 December 29

Sarah Whitney

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Recommended Citation

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Sunday Dec. 29. '67

Neither "23 nor 24" my dearest Anne according to my reckoning & by previous numbering was the letter ²³ wh. came last night to gladden our hearts. So what state of thankfulness I shall arrive to is impossible to predict, for twice every month, I sincerely say "I never was so glad before." But I don't say it with my lips & so may escape the charge of untruthfulness wh. I am apt to bring against those who indulge in a too free use of that adverb never. This time we had to wait 2 days over the fortnight wh. indeed ought not to be considered bad when I had fully determined to make every allowance for delay by stress of weather. To day Mrs Weiss gave me a photograph of a baby angel sent to me by Mary from Dresden & on the back of it, she says she shall write to me when she has seen you. That looks as if Italy & not France ~~was~~ to be their home this winter - & the fact that I heard yesterday - that Mary Jr. weighs 144 lbs, makes it probable that she is going to risk a sojourn in Rome. All wh. is good to think of - though I can't help regarding Rome as on the brink of a volcano. One can scarcely look for stability any where just now. Such convulsions & catastrophes make up every day's report - therefore do not think I will borrow any unnecessary trouble because you have pitched in tent near that particular crater. Mr Weiss has been preaching to day about American recklessness - finding therein the cause of the wholesale murders that are filling the land with wailing. It was a great drop of comfort to hear the assertion ~~of~~ that the old world showed us need so much greater safety.

But there are so many dangers from so many causes
& yr letter doesn't assure us that you are in the
best of company - be you with Garibaldi or with
Pope. Devoutly thankful are we that you have
escaped harm thus far & hopeful that all will
continue well. I am sincerely sorry for poor Garibaldi
& wonder ^{how} committed no sin against Law in
giving Italy to D.C. Wherever there is war, I suppose
there must be outrage. Our own troops were not
free from the charge & none of us wd have been well
pleased with the Genl. who left the field for that
reason. There were mothers at the North whose
hearts were not in the cause for wh. their sons
laid down their lives & who'd say as hard
things of Abraham Lincoln as any secessionist.
I shan't therefore give up my hero yet.

Jan 4th 1865. It seems hardly credible my dear
Anne that Christmas & New Year shd ^{have} passed
without one spoken word across the water - but
the greeting went before & the history can follow
& the impossible needn't be deplored. According
to custom we ate the turkey & cetera at Edwds
with commendable relish & had a merry time
afterward - in the office for digestion & in the parlour
because it was Christmas. Howards, Rogers & Whitney
through the day with the addition of Stones in the
evening helped to repeat last years programme. Gifts
were not quite as abundant as usual, but I think
there was no repining in consequence. On New
Years day the snow & rain never ceased till sunset
& then for only 5 minutes when I ran in to Mrs.

Barnard's, thinking that no other outsider wd wish
her a happy New Year - a deep gulf of stock prevented
the like neighborly act towards Mrs Locke. Carrie
& I stripped our plants of their blossoms for each
others benefit, making Frederic messenger. The
evening wh the day furnished I spent in letter writing,
principally to James & family, whose New Year must
have been sad & lonely though they do rejoice that
the poor sufferer had found rest 4 days before.
She had expressed a desire to live till her 75th birth
day, & having reached it, in full consciousness of it
& every thing about her she quietly breathed her last
on Sat. A.M. Poor Mary has had a hard time, thank
though in the sympathy & help of all about her. I
hope you will hear from others as good account of
the children as I have had from James. Such
a death bed with I must make me for ever more
more charitable in my judgment of the living.
And what are you going to do about Mrs Dale? is the
question that comes home to me in this connection
& with the new regard I feel for her in reading
"The College, the Market & the Court". Well, I can
only settle back into the old opinion that she "is over
bad to bless - once good to bear". When she is dead
I have no doubt the world & his wife will think
better of her than it does now. Mr Clarke
preached the Election sermon yesterday, coming
out strongly for woman suffrage, reformation
in the treatment of criminals &c, & has probably

raised a tempest of conservative & orthodox
fury that will equal if not surpass any thing
of the kind we have had for years.

Terrible stories are told of the working of emancipation at the South & the suffering of Whites & Blacks - but I believe they are mostly the devices of the enemy for party ends - Without doubt there is great poverty & suffering - but the good work of reconstruction is going on & things look much brighter to me than they did at the time of the fall elections. I wish I could feel as confident that Roman affairs will come into a right shape with no trouble to the foreign lookers on of the great game. I wish too that into all the good things Rome gives you, could be added a climate that does not "curdle the blood". I fear my dear Ann it is the actual personal suffering in Rome that makes you imagine ours in Belmont to be so severe. Winter did pounce upon us in Dec. earlier than usual but lately he has treated us very tenderly - so much so that the wife of the man whose best crop comes out of Fresh Pond says "the weather is detestable".

In wh. opinion I whom on this 3^d day of Jan have found great delight in gadding do not agree. This morn'g Fiedt having gone in another direction, I set out to walk to Newton Corner - from thence to Lake card to W.R. & between walking, car riding & the help of driving friends, I have made

quite a circuit & had a good time. Last long at
Mrs. Whittings about 60 persons seemed to enjoy very
much Mr. Thaxters reading of "The Flight of the Duchess"
& some new portions from the history of Prairie Camp
read by Mr Weiss. More than 100 dollars has been
added to the Freedmen's fund & there is a prospect
of more. Jane Phinney was one of the audience
& told me that Mary is very happy in a life of
solitude on the prairie that wld tempt her (I)
to suicide. Perhaps you know that she went there
to take care of George's 6 motherless children.
The youngest a young babe died - I have been taken
by relatives & Mary is left with only 2. She has sent
off Geo. for his bodily, mental & pecuniary gain
to work for his brother Bartlett. Much to the
amused surprise of her eastern friends she has
instituted a Sunday school for the ignorant
neighborhood & has sent to her friends for text
& other books. She says that she does not think
there is a book in any house save G's excepting
the Bible. Of course I am interested to send
to her every thing I can lay hold of that will serve
her purpose. The "don't know what religion"
she shall teach them but hopes she shall stem
the upon Unitarianism!

Mr Weiss asks me what you have seen in Hethers
that pleases most - & I cannot recall any degrees
of comparison. Those horses of Phidias & Praxiteles
wld. I think you liked very much look in photographs

Don. orig -

I have not told you that Edward, Carrie & I found
great satisfaction on Christmas eve in listening to the
C. Carol & the Trial of Pickwick as read by Mr. Dickens.
The newspapers said it was his best effort in B. & certainly
excited the enthusiasm of his audience. But the
favor for him has died out & tickets for his next
readings can be obtained without much or waiting.
I am glad to have seen the man as well as to have
heard him, but I do not care to spend 2 dollars to
see & hear him again. Mrs. Remond may be heard
before the "Mercantile" for one dollar & if the city were
not so far off I sh^d gladly pay it for the entertainment.
Thus says Wendell Phillips is coming to N. to talk about "the
Times". I am not sure that I have sufficient desire to be made
miserable to take me to hear him. Thus we may hear Mr. Thaxter
at Mrs. Payer's. If Carrie sh^d make her contribution to this
pocket ~~bag~~ ^{bag} this more from me will add too much to the weight.
In another sense it is already too heavy. Therefore I show a blank
piece out of this sheet for some other occasion.

Soak 4 Table Spoonfuls of Tapioca over-
night ^{with} 1/2 pint or more of water. - Heat it
in the morning gradually till the ^{a little salt} swells
& add 1 qt milk & 2/3 cup of sugar, &
let it come to a boil (all things cooked
with milk in this way shd be in a
vessel that can be set in boiling water
that it may not be flavored with the
Essence of Burn.) Add the yolks of
3 eggs well beaten when it has boiled
a few minutes. Pour into 1/2 pudding
dish - flavor with, lemon, vanilla or any-
thing you like. - Have ready the whites
of the eggs beaten to a thick froth
with 1/3 cup sugar & stir lightly into the
top of the pudding - or spread it over
& bake a light brown.

Frosted Custard

Stir into 1 qt boiling milk 2 dessert
Spoonfuls Maizena well mixed with
a little cold milk sweetened & salted
to taste - Let it boil ~~about~~ 10 minutes.
Then stir in the yolks of 3 eggs well beaten.
Pour into pudding dish & when cool,
* ~~Flavour~~ to taste

Spread over the white of the eggs beaten
with sugar & brown slightly -

If Margine is unknown in Rome perhaps
Arrowroot will do as well.

rec'd
Jan 7th 22
Falkner & Son.



Miss Anne Whitney
Care New Freeborn Co
Rome
Italy

Jan 24

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